

# GEORGE W. RICE, PONTIAC'S FIRST MAILMAN, DEAD

# SWEDISH MOVE MAY UNTANGLE LEAGUE SNARL

(By United Press)

George W. Rice, one of the well known pioneers and business men of Pontiac, died at his home at 424 West Livingston street on Saturday, March 13, after an illness of several weeks, to which he succumbed in the ninety-second year of his age.

He was born in Penobscot county, Maine, December 20, 1834, and came with his parents to Illinois when he was about ten years of age, the family first settling in Kendall county, and then to Livingston county in 1847, so that the period of his acquaintance of the county extended over 79 years, and his active business career in Pontiac covered 45 years, having given him an unusual association, with the development of the county and the growth and prosperity of the city.

In 1848 W. K. Brown, who had settled on Mud creek in what is now known as Esmen township in the early thirties, removed to Ottawa and took charge of several mail routes from that center to the fast filling settlements of central Illinois.

In 1839 George W. Rice, then a lad in his early "teens," was engaged by Mr. Brown to carry the mail over these lines: One extending from Ottawa to Doty's Stand ten miles directly west of Chicago on the plank road on the bank of the Des Plaines river; another ran between Ottawa and Naperville in DuPage county through Newark, Yorkville and Oswego; a third line ran through Peru, Barron Grove and Cambridge to Milledgeville, with intermediate offices along the way.

The Ottawa-Peoria route ran through Lowell, Mt. Palatine, following the old Chicago road through Woodford county, reaching Peoria via Metamora and Washington.

On the route to Bloomington the carrier left Ottawa Friday morning, ferried the river and turned west crossing Covel creek, where the state road now crosses and where at that time the first stop was made, the office being kept by a Mr. Richardson. The second stop was at Elmer Baldwin's in Farm Ridge township, La Salle county, the third at Norton Mackey's, where the hard road crosses Otter creek between Streator and Ottawa, the fourth at Isaac Painter's on Prairie creek, the farm now being covered by the city of Streator. Then, followed stops at New Michigan, Sunberry, Mud Creek, Gray and Ladd's store, in Pontiac, Ayota, McDowell, Indian Grove, Lexington, Money Creek and Bloomington.

At various times George W. Rice rode all these early lines of communication, enduring the hardships of winter's cold, storms and at times almost bottomless roads, his compensation being \$8 per month.

## Civil War Veteran.

In September 1861 he enlisted in the Union army as a soldier in Company D, 52d Vol., and was assigned to the Army of the Tennessee, participating in the memorable battle of Shiloh, in which the regiment lost 170 men. Was engaged at the siege of Corinth, and the battles of Resacca, Dallas, Kennesaw Mountain, Decatur, Atlanta and Jonesboro, as well as several minor engagements under Sherman in the march from Atlanta to the sea, as well as the more severe engagements at Bentonville and Goldsboro in the march through the Carolinas to Richmond, and later participated in the grand review at Washington, being mustered out of service at Camp Douglas, Chicago, July 12, 1865, having been promoted to second lieutenant during the closing campaign of the war.

Mr. Rice was married to Miss Adeline Smith, of Livingston county, March, 1860, whose death occurred in July of the same year.

On January 2, 1870, he was married to Miss Caroline Norton, his four children being Elbridge W. Rice, of Chicago; Mary O. Rice, of Pontiac; Mrs. Norton Porter, and Georgia, of Chicago.

He engaged in manufacturing and dealing in furniture in Pontiac in 1874, and continued in this business till 1919, spending his last days in the home he had estab-

Geneva, March 15.—League of Nations believed today that solution over council seats has been found during a two-hour secret session of the council. The proposed solution depends on agreement of the Swedish government, which has been telegraphed for approval.

It was announced that Tuesday's scheduled assembly meeting had been called off, although it might be convoked on Wednesday.

Brazil raised unexpected opposition to the settlement during a meeting of representatives of Great Britain, France and Spain. Mello Franco, the Brazilian delegate, said he was instructed by his government to veto Germany's election to the council unless Brazil was given some satisfaction regarding her demand for a permanent council seat.

In case of Franco maintaining his attitude, it is learned the entire council may cable Secretary of States Pacheco, of Brazil, urging that he reconsider the matter.

The assembly's steering committee will meet Tuesday, it was announced.

If Sweden decides to solve the problem by resigning from the council to provide a non-permanent seat for Poland, the committee would convoke the assembly for Wednesday to accept Sweden's resignation, to elect Sweden's successor and finally to elect Germany to the council.

According to the pool of the assembly, Poland will be elected to the seat vacated by Sweden by at least 35 votes, providing she pledges herself to maintain Sweden's opposition to further enlargement to the council.

# HOUSE PASSES BILL TO RULE BROADCASTING

(By United Press)

Washington, D. C., March 15.—The White bill giving the secretary of commerce greater powers to regulate radio broadcasting, was passed today by the house.

It proposes to establish a federal commission to work in connection with the commerce department.

Before the final vote, an amendment by Representative Branton, Texas, Democrat, making slander or libel over the radio punishable, was defeated by a vote of 287 to 57.

The vote on the bill proper was 218 to 124.

A collection of precious autographs has been discovered at Mantua in the archives of the Gonzaga library. Among the famous autographs come to light are the signatures of Rubens, Lucrezia Borgia, Titian, Tasso, Ariosto, Palestrina and Galilei. Besides these, holograph letters by Bellini, the composer of "Norma"; Giulio Romano, Pietro Perugino, Andrea Mantegna and Claude Monteverde have been discovered.

lished in the city over fifty years ago.

## Pioneer and Patriot.

It is quite evident that of those who have born so intimate relation to a community, through such a significant period, very few if any remain, and those of his large circle of friends and acquaintances who remember him through any extended period of his active life, they can only think of him as a pioneer and patriot who did well his part in development of a community whose challenges he met when the country was in almost a primitive state, and who remained faithful to his tasks till the county became one of the seven richest agricultural counties in the nation.

Besides his immediate family one sister survives, Mrs. Isabelle Kelly, of Olive Branch, Ill.

He was a charter member of the Odell lodge, A. F. and A. M., and a member of the G. A. R. since the days of its organization.

The funeral services were conducted today at the First Baptist church, in charge of Rev John S. Brinkman, pastor of the family, assisted by John H. Ryan. The G. A. R. services were conducted at the church and the Masonic services were directed by the local chapter at the cemetery.